



PIER PAOLO CALZOLARI

PAINTING AS A BUTTERFLY

MARCH 18 – APRIL 23, 2022

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY



Marianne Boesky Gallery is proud to present a new exhibition by revered Italian artist Pier Paolo Calzolari. Produced over the past four years, the exhibition will feature over thirty new paintings that continue to explore elemental materials such as salt, lead, oyster shells, felt and raw pigment powder. Three large-scale historic works will anchor the exhibition and provide an important connection that emphasizes the Italian master's longstanding commitments to material alchemy, observation of modern urban life and the eternal.

SELECTED WORKS ON VIEW



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020

Salt, pastelli a l'ecu, oil pastels, milk tempera, thick flannel (mollettone)

37 3/4 x 106 1/4 x 1 5/8 inches

96 x 270 x 4 cm

(PPC.19082)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020

Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, milk tempera,
egg tempera, thick flannel (mollettone)

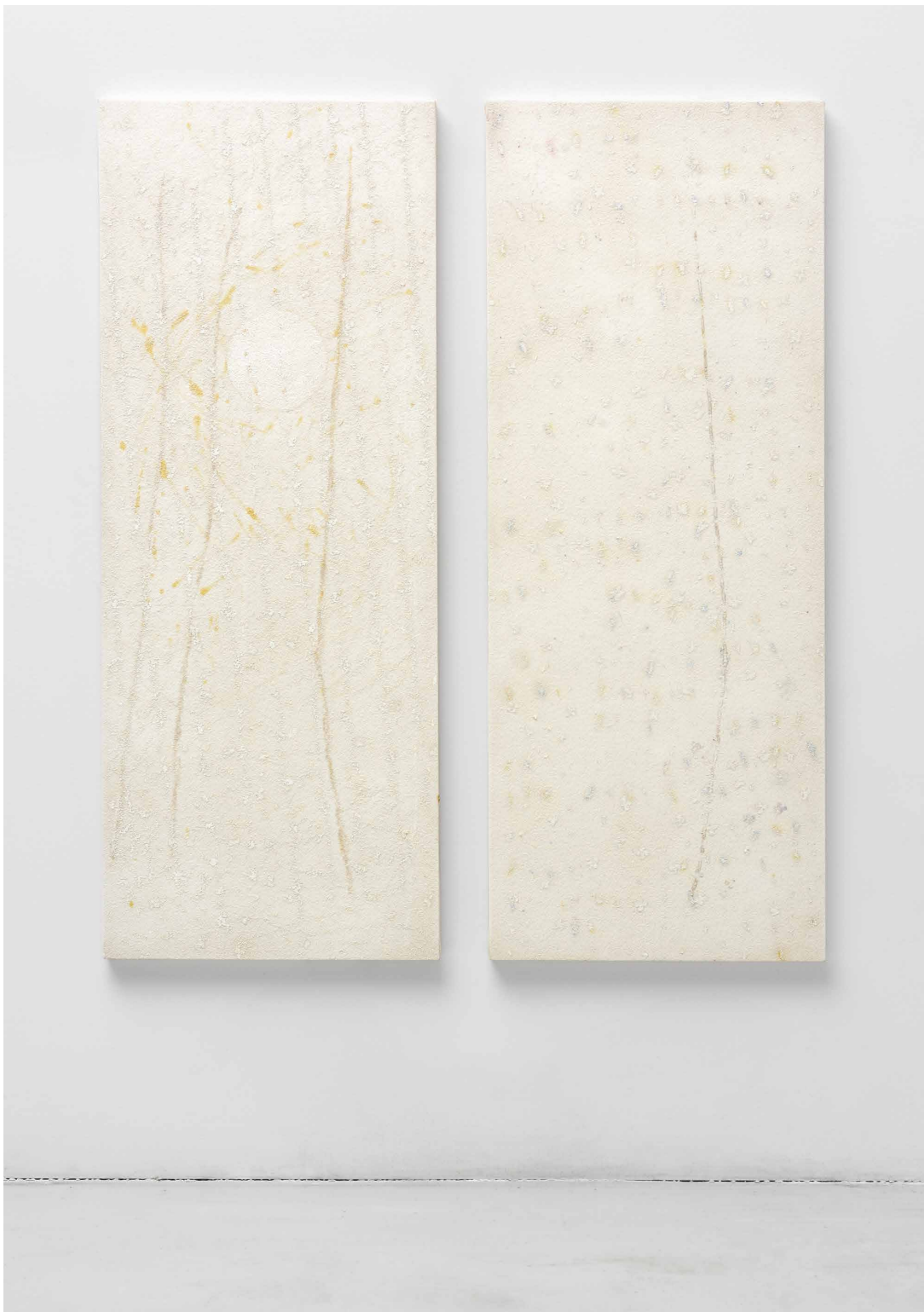
37 3/8 x 35 3/8 x 1 5/8 inches

95 x 90 x 4 cm

(PPC.19088)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019
Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels,
milk tempera, egg tempera
110 1/4 x 110 1/4 x 2 3/8 inches
280 x 280 x 6 cm
(PPC.19073)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Haiku luna bianca, 2017

Salt, thick flannel (mollettone), tempera grassa,
oil color, pastel à l'écu, pigmenti a colla

Overall: 70 7/8 x 61 1/8 x 2 inches

180 x 155 x 5 cm

Individual panels: 70 7/8 x 27 1/2 x 2 inches

180 x 70 x 5 cm

(PPC.19072)





Pier Paolo Calzolari

Monocromo blu, 1979

Egg tempera, waxy water tempera on
cardboard glued on wooden board
90 1/2 x 413 3/8 x 1 5/8 inches
230 x 1050 x 4 cm
(PPC.19051)



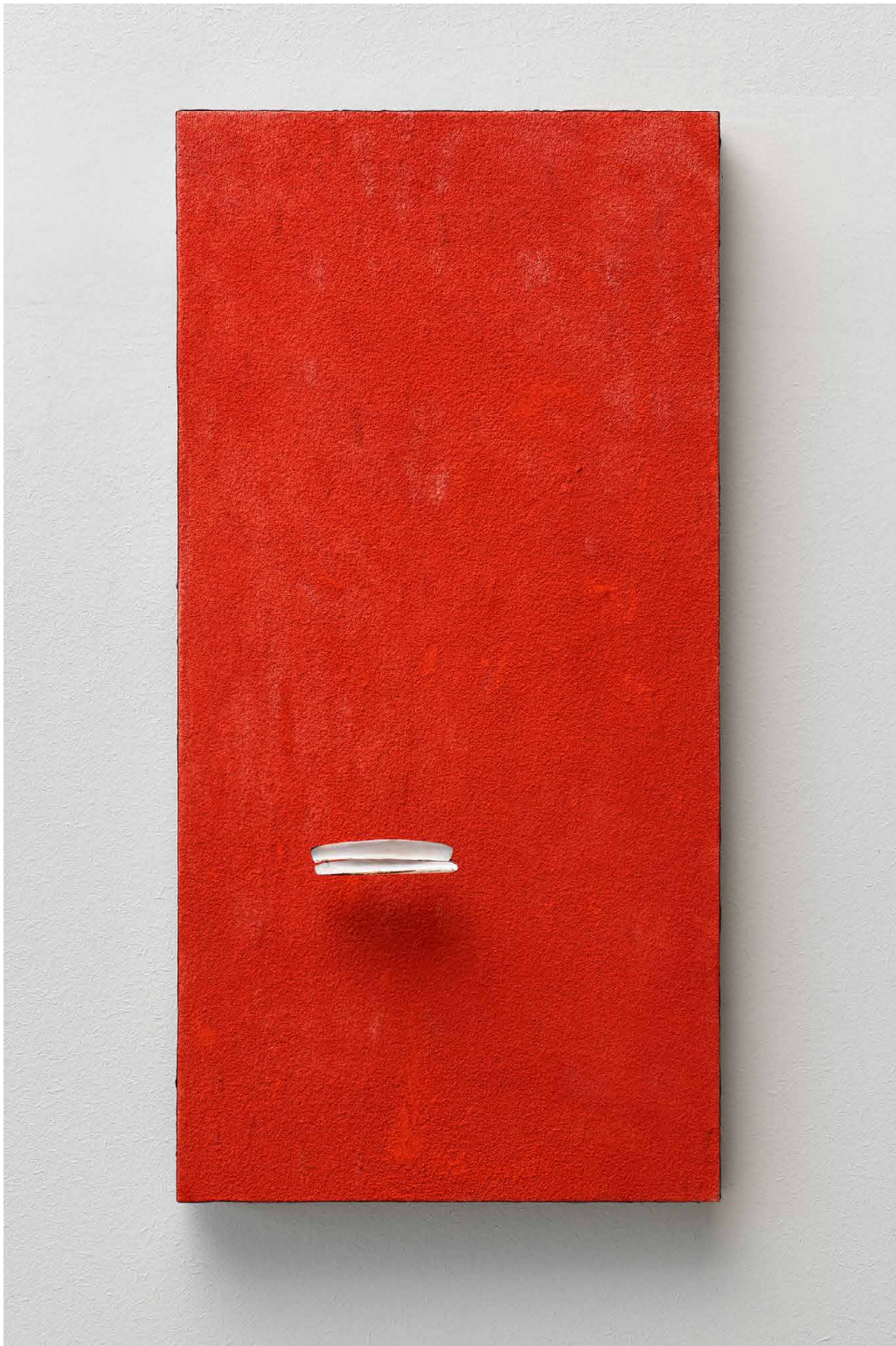


Pier Paolo Calzolari
Pantano grande / Great quagmire, 2019
Salt, egg tempera, tempera grassa, pastels a l'ecu
48 1/8 x 31 1/2 x 1 3/8 inches
122 x 80 x 3.5 cm
(PPC.19083)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Untitled [Little shoes], 2021
À l'écu pastels, gouache, plastic,
colored thumbtacks, ox gall
74 3/4 x 68 7/8 inches
189.9 x 174.9 cm
(PPC.19074)





Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2021

Salt, pigments, oil pastels, shell, steel, lead

39 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches

100 x 50 x 9 cm

(PPC.19077)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Haiku [Scarpetta rosa], 2017
Salt, thick flannel (mollettone), tempera, egg tempera, oil pastels
39 5/8 x 28 x 1 3/8 inches
100.5 x 71 x 3.5 cm
(PPC.19091)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020

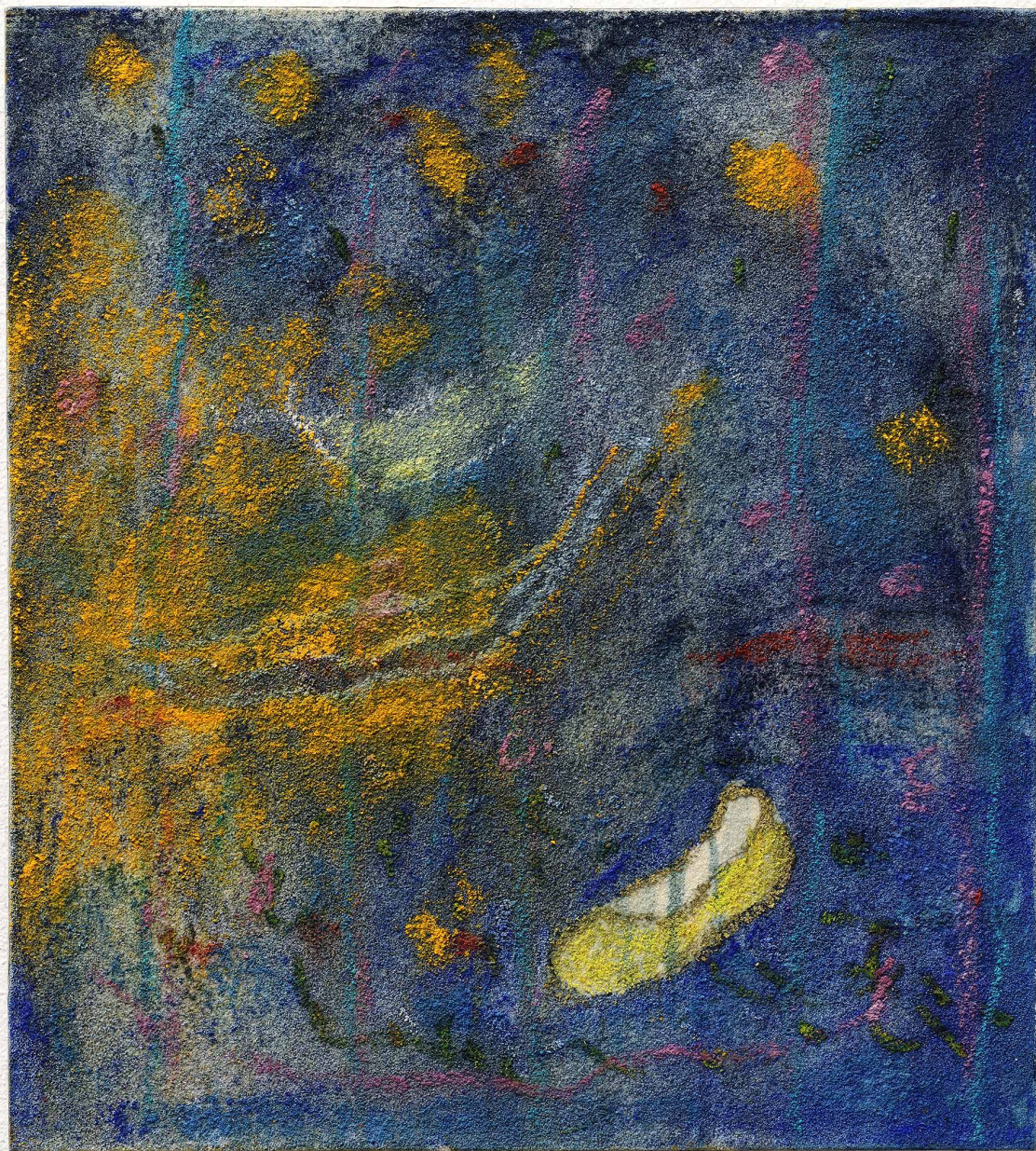
Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, tempera grassa, graphite

Overall: 100 3/8 x 165 3/8 x 2 1/2 inches, 255 x 420 x 6.5 cm

Individual panels: 100 3/8 x 35 3/8 x 2 1/2 inches, 180 x 90 x 6 cm

(PPC.19085)





Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020

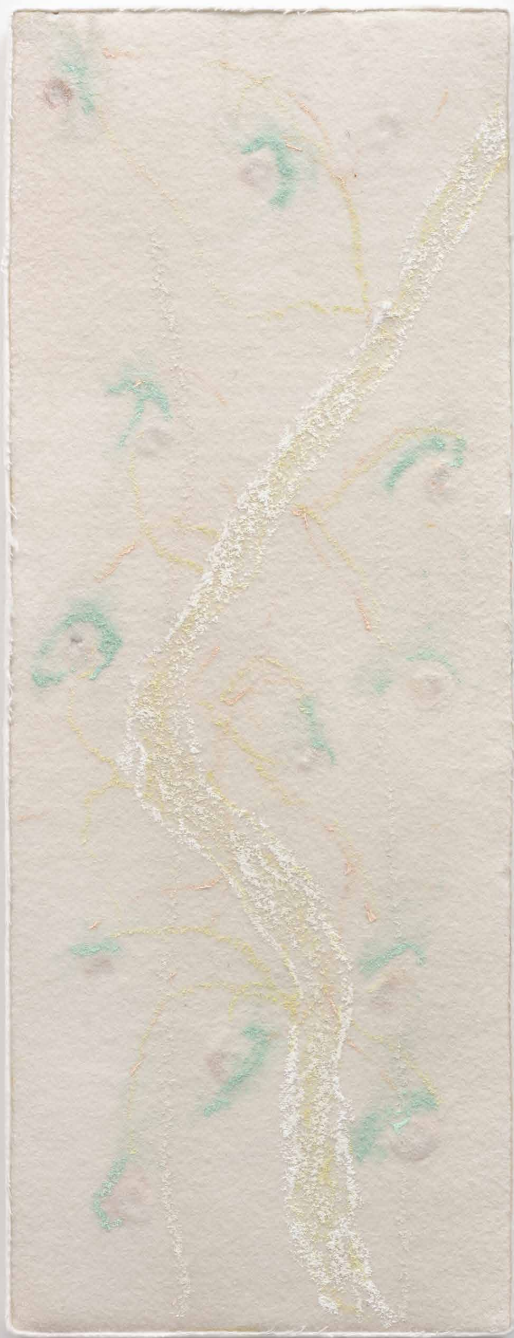
Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, tempera grassa

21 5/8 x 19 3/4 x 1 5/8 inches

55 x 50 x 4 cm

(PPC.19092)





Pier Paolo Calzolari
Capriccio romantico / Romantic whim, 2019
Salt, milk tempera, egg tempera, pastels l'ecu
39 x 15 x 1 3/8 inches
99 x 38 x 3.5 cm
(PPC.19079)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Grande blu / Great blue, 2019

Graphite, tempera grassa, egg tempera, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, salt

Overall: 110 1/4 x 263 3/4 x 2 3/8 inches, 280 x 670 x 6 cm

Individual panels: 63 x 67 x 2 3/8 inches, 160 x 170 x 6 cm

(PPC.19080)





Pier Paolo Calzolari

Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019

Salt, tempera, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels,
thick flannel (mollettone), paper
30 1/4 x 22 5/8 inches

77 x 57.5 cm

(PPC.19096)

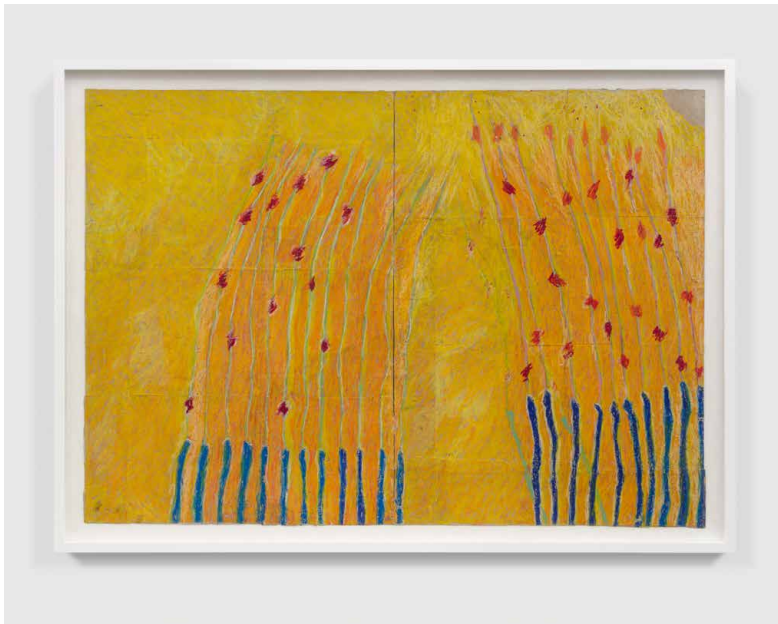
Please find the complete exhibition checklist below.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition will highlight the artist's singular use of a range of organic materials--from salt and flower petals to raw pigment powders and tempera--that has defined his lyrical trajectory as a painter throughout his career.

Having been a key part of the seminal 1960s exhibitions curated by Germano Celant, Pier Paolo Calzolari has long been associated with "Arte Povera" and is one of the few remaining living artists from this historical group. The movement was concerned with experimentation in its use of unconventional matter and a preoccupation with the impact and immediacy of the quotidian in art. The fecund but perishable substances frequently decided for themselves which course the artwork would take. Each creation by Calzolari is a transfiguration of the fragile and ordinary, a type of soulful "suspension" in which synchronicity and memory occupy a common ground.

Throughout his career, Calzolari has worked not only in painting, but also video, sculpture, and live theatrical presentations. Yet during the past years of quarantine, he has concentrated on his painterly practice. This period of fervent creativity is the focus of the expansive exhibition, which will occupy both New York gallery spaces.



Calzolari spent his youth in Venice, where he was influenced by distinctive elements of Venetian painting, such as luminist effects and the reflection of the light on architectural surfaces. The artist's captivation with light is evident in the new paintings, and his use of vibrant color will be on prominent display. The luminous canvases include fields of intense primary yellows, reds, blues and white, all with varying surfaces and tonal iterations. For Calzolari, white is all important as it is a microcosm of light. Red can stand in for energy or fire, blue a symbolic dark light and a yellow surface is itself a search for light, as well as its residual memory.

Additionally, works from the recent Shop Signs series (2019-ongoing) will be included. Months spent in isolation gave rise to his inevitable longing to walk the streets. The artist proceeded to build the sights of these strolls in his mind, and this imagined modern "village" features explorations of fictional encounters with, to name just a few, the shoemaker, the florist, the ophthalmologist and the hatter. Merchant signage, nearly abstracted, is conjured as universal recollection. Everyday objects such as a shoe and a teapot act as silent signifiers and render the need for additional textual explanation unnecessary.



The paintings in the exhibition are transfixed in a state of frozen perfection, yet sensuous and shapeshifting, like a dream retold. Each incantatory canvas is an interruption of the progression of time and an invitation for contemplation.

*"I've always asked people to listen to the murmuring of things,
the voice of objects, their secrets."*

– Pier Paolo Calzolari

Having utilized everything from neon aphorisms to ice-making machines to fire-breathers to snippets of poetry, the Italian master, over the course of his life's work, offered viewers a romantic—though ever-masculine—view of the nature of matter. With his singular form of assisted alchemy, Pier Paolo Calzolari has continued to be an inventor and pollinator. His creations are simultaneously highly charged and contemplative, both for the viewer and the artist himself. He is at once conductor and audience.



ABOUT PIER PAOLO CALZOLARI

Included in the seminal 1960's exhibitions curated by Germano Celant, Pier Paolo Calzolari (b. 1943; Bologna, Italy) is associated with "Arte Povera" and is one of the only remaining living artists from this movement. The artist's youth was spent in Venice where he was influenced by the city's particular light and its reflection on the marble of the buildings. These observations lead him to working with frost, one of his most unique and defining materials, which he used to illustrate the perfect white. Like other artists of the "Arte Povera" movement, Calzolari's materials are elemental and frequently organic: fire, salt, lead, tobacco, moss, burnt wood, oyster shells, tobacco leaves, felt neon, and on occasion butter. While Calzolari may be classified as an installation artist, his practice also includes painting, sculpture and performance. He created "happenings" as early as 1966, drawing viewers into his artwork as performers in what he termed "an activation of space." Over the subsequent decades Calzolari has continued to experiment, exploring his ongoing interest in light, matter, and time within these media.

Calzolari's first exhibition at Marianne Boesky Gallery in 2012 was the artist's first in the United States in over 20 years. In June 2019, Pier Paolo Calzolari was the subject of a major retrospective *Painting as a Butterfly* at the Madre Museum in Naples, which was curated by Achille Bonito Oliva and Andrea Villani. Calzolari's works are included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Guggenheim Museum, New York, Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Centre Pompidou, Paris, and Palazzo Grassi, Punta della Dogana François Pinault Foundation, Venice, amongst many others. He has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art (1985, 2013), Documenta (1992), Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume (1994), Venice Biennale (1978, 2007), Ca' Pesaro, Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna (2011), the Peggy Guggenheim Collection (2011), and the Centre Pompidou (2016). The artist currently lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal.



PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Artphilein Foundation, Vaduz, Liechtenstein
Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli, Italy
Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, Italy
Collezioni Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy
Fondation Marguerite et Aimé Maeght, Saint Paul de Vence, France
Fondazione Giuliani, Rome, Italy
Fond national d'art contemporain, Puteaux, France
Fonds régional d'art contemporain Bretagne, Châteaugiron, France
Fonds régional d'art contemporain Champagne Ardennes, Reims, France
Fonds régional d'art contemporain Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Dunkirk, France
Fonds régional d'art contemporain Picardie, Amiens, France
Galleria civica di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino, Turin, Italy
Glenstone, Potomac, MD
Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein
MAXXI | Museo nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo, Rome, Italy
Musée d'art moderne et d'art contemporain, Nice, France
Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Museo Cantonale di Lugano, Lugano, Switzerland
Museo d'arte moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
Museo Nacional Centro Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Boston, MA
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, Austria
Palazzo Grassi – Punta della Dogana, François Pinault Foundation, Venice, Italy
Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent, Belgium
The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, Norway

Pier Paolo Calzolari

Still Life, 2006

Milk tempera, copper, iron, lead and refrigerator motor

85 1/2 x 39 1/2 x 20 inches

217 x 100 x 51 cm

(PPC.4482)



FULL EXHIBITION CHECKLIST



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020

Salt, pastelli a l'écu, oil pastels, milk tempera, thick flannel (mollettone)
37 3/4 x 106 1/4 x 1 5/8 inches
96 x 270 x 4 cm
(PPC.19082)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Monocromo blu, 1979

Egg tempera, waxy water tempera on cardboard
glued on wooden board
90 1/2 x 413 3/8 x 1 5/8 inches
230 x 1050 x 4 cm
(PPC.19051)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020

Salt, pastels a l'écu, oil pastels, milk tempera, egg tempera, thick flannel (mollettone)
37 3/8 x 35 3/8 x 1 5/8 inches
95 x 90 x 4 cm
(PPC.19088)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Pantano grande / Great quagmire, 2019

Salt, egg tempera, tempera grassa, pastels a l'écu
48 1/8 x 31 1/2 x 1 3/8 inches
122 x 80 x 3.5 cm
(PPC.19083)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019

Salt, pastels a l'écu, oil pastels, milk tempera, egg tempera
110 1/4 x 110 1/4 x 2 3/8 inches
280 x 280 x 6 cm
(PPC.19073)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled [Little shoes], 2021

À l'écu pastels, gouache, plastic, colored thumbtacks, ox gall
74 3/4 x 68 7/8 inches
189.9 x 174.9 cm
(PPC.19074)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Haiku luna bianca, 2017

Salt, thick flannel (mollettone), tempera grassa, oil color, pastel à l'écu, pigmenti a colla
Overall: 70 7/8 x 61 1/8 x 2 inches
180 x 155 x 5 cm
Individual panels: 180 x 70 x 5 cm
(PPC.19072)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2021

Salt, pigments, oil pastels, shell, steel, lead
39 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches
100 x 50 x 9 cm
(PPC.19077)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Haiku [Scarpetta rosa], 2017
Salt, thick flannel (mollettone), tempera, egg tempera,
oil pastels
39 5/8 x 28 x 1 3/8 inches
100.5 x 71 x 3.5 cm
(PPC.19091)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Grande blu / Great blue, 2019
Graphite, tempera grassa, egg tempera, pastels a
l'ecu, oil pastels, salt
Overall: 110 1/4 x 263 3/4 x 2 3/8 inches
280 x 670 x 6 cm
Individual panels: 160 x 170 x 6 cm
(PPC.19080)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020
Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, tempera grassa, graphite
Overall: 100 3/8 x 165 3/8 x 2 1/2 inches
255 x 420 x 6.5 cm
Individual panels:
100 3/8 x 35 3/8 x 2 1/2 inches
180 x 90 x 6 cm
(PPC.19085)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019
Salt, tempera, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, thick flannel
(mollettone), paper
30 1/4 x 22 5/8 inches
77 x 57.5 cm
(PPC.19096)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2020
Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, tempera grassa
21 5/8 x 19 3/4 x 1 5/8 inches
55 x 50 x 4 cm
(PPC.19092)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Paesaggio veneziano / Venetian landscape, 2017
Salt, thick flannel (mollettone), pastel a l'ecu
44 3/4 x 27 3/4 x 1 3/4 inches
113.5 x 70.5 x 4.5 cm
(PPC.19086)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Capriccio romantico / Romantic whim, 2019
Salt, milk tempera, egg tempera, pastels à l'ecu
39 x 15 x 1 3/8 inches
99 x 38 x 3.5 cm
(PPC.19079)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Haiku con carta / Haiku with paper, 2017
Salt, lead, oil pastels, tempera grassa, thick flannel
(mollettone), paper
48 3/8 x 31 3/4 x 3 inches
123 x 80.5 x 7.5 cm
(PPC.19087)



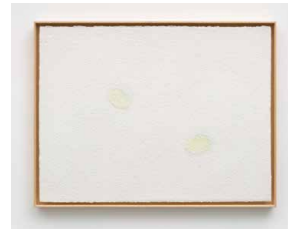
Pier Paolo Calzolari
Ha'i'ku [scarpetta grigia], 2017
Salt, lead, tempera, oil pastels
39 5/8 x 28 x 2 1/8 inches
100.5 x 71 x 5.5 cm
(PPC.19089)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019
Salt, tempera, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, paper
22 5/8 x 30 1/4 inches
57.5 x 77 cm
(PPC.19095)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Uova, 2017
Thick flannel (mollettone), tempera, milk tempera, graphite
47 5/8 x 47 5/8 x 2 1/2 inches
121 x 121 x 6.5 cm
(PPC.19098)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019
Salt, tempera, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, paper
22 5/8 x 30 1/4 inches
57.5 x 77 cm
(PPC.19097)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Haiku [Trittico], 2019
Milk tempera, egg tempera, paper, flower petals stabilized
79 7/8 x 112 1/4 x 9 1/2 inches
203 x 285 x 24 cm
(PPC.19071)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Untitled, 2020
Salt, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, tempera grassa
21 5/8 x 19 3/4 x 1 5/8 inches
55 x 50 x 4 cm
(PPC.19093)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Senza titolo / Untitled, 2019
Graphite, milk tempera, tempera grassa, pastels a l'ecu, oil pastels, salt, iron, dress
90 1/2 x 74 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches
230 x 190 x 30 cm
(PPC.19081)



Pier Paolo Calzolari
Untitled, 2021
Salt, pigments, oil pastels, oyster, steel, lead
39 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 4 1/8 inches
100 x 50 x 10.5 cm
(PPC.19075)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2021

Salt, pigments, oil pastels, gold leaf, walnut, feather, steel, lead

39 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 4 3/4 inches

100 x 50 x 12 cm

(PPC.19078)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2021

Salt, pastels à l'écu, tempera grassa, pigments, shell

29 1/2 x 22 1/8 x 2 3/8 inches

74.9 x 56.2 x 6 cm

(PPC.19090)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

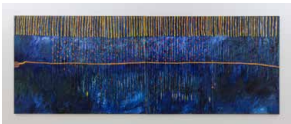
Senza titolo [Luna] / Untitled [Moon], 1979

Wax water tempera, egg tempera and oil on cardboard pieces glued on wood

74 3/4 x 78 3/4 x 1 5/8 inches

190 x 200 x 4 cm

(PPC.19084)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Rideau V, 1984

Tempera grassa on canvas

78 3/4 x 212 5/8 x 1 5/8 inches

200 x 540 x 4 cm

(PPC.19068)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2021

Salt, oil pastels, pastels à l'écu, tempera grassa, egg, golden thread, steel, thick flannel (mollettone)

43 1/4 x 21 5/8 x 15 3/4 inches

110 x 55 x 40 cm

(PPC.19168)



Pier Paolo Calzolari

Untitled, 2021

Salt, pigments, oil pastels, golden thread, shell, oil candle, steel, lead on wood

29 7/8 x 21 7/8 x 4 in

75.9 x 55.6 x 10.2 cm

(PPC.19267)

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY
509 West 24th Street
New York, NY

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY
507 West 24th Street
New York, NY

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY
Future Location To Be Announced
Aspen, CO

212.680.9889
www.boeskygallery.com

@MBoeskyGallery 

@MarianneBoeskyGallery 

www.facebook.com/marianneboeskygallery 

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY